

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 08632 241636Z

66

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /095 W

----- 105917

R 241455Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0215

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 8632

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ET PINS PINT

SUBJECT: ADDIS AUTHORITIES SEEK TO CALM WESTERN AND NORTHERN
PROVINCES

REF: (A) ADDIS 8351, PARA 2; (B) ADDIS MEMCON DTD 7/22/74
"THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRYSIDE"

1. ETHIOPIAN RADIO AND TV JULY 23/24 HAVE BEEN REPORTING EFFORTS BY ENDERASSIES (GOVGEN'S) OF GOJJAM, BEGEMEDIR AND SIMIEN PROVINCES TO CALM RURAL FEARS THAT AFCC AND EMPEROR IN CONFRONTATION. ENDERASSIES HAVE BEEN EXPLAINING THAT AFCC IS ACTING WITH HIM'S BACKING AS EMPEROR IS INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN FOR HIS LIBERAL PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP, RESPECTFUL OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ENDERASSIES HAVE CONCLUDED THEIR STATEMENTS WITH WARNING TO RURAL AUDIENCES NOT RPT NOT TO GIVE CREDENCE TO "FALSE RUMORS" BEING SPREAD LEST PEACE AND SECURITY BE ENDANGERED THEREBY. ASSUME DEPT HAS FULL TEXT OF BROADCASTS THROUGH FBIS.

2. "RUMORS" IN QUESTION BEING WIDELY REPEATED HERE. STORIES ASSERT THAT EFFORT IS UNDERWAY ORGANIZE ARMED GOJJAMI, BEGEMIDIR-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 08632 241636Z

TIGRE PEASANTRY TO RELIEVE BELEAGUERED EMPEROR. FAVORITE VER-

SION HAS ARMED BANDS MARCHING ON ADDIS IF AFCC OPENLY ATTEMPTS SEIZE POWER. UNDERSTANDABLY, STORY USUALLY ENLIVENED WITH SPECULATION ON RAS MENGESHA SEYOUM'S POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT AND PRECISE OBJECTIVES ALLEGED ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT; DEGREE HIS SUPPORT BEYOND TIGRE AMONG CONSERVATIVE RURAL ELITES; POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT NEW BEGEMIDIR ENDERASSIE MG NEGA TELEGNE (FORMER CO THIRD DIV), ETC. MOST FANCIFUL VERSIONS EXPAND FOREGOING INTO PREPARATION FULL-FLEDGED COUNTER OFFENSIVE BY EMPEROR AND NOBILITY INTENDED CONTAIN/ROLL BACK GROWING INFLUENCE MILITARY REFORMERS AND AFCC.

3. EMBASSY CONSIDERING THESE STORIES WITH GREAT RESERVE. MOST REACTIONARY GREAT NOBLES ARE BEING DETAINED; PEASANTS HAVE NOT THUS FAR SHOWN INCLINATION "MARCH" FOR THEM (ALTHOUGH PERCEIVED THREAT TO EMPEROR MIGHT BE DIFFERENT MATTER) AS RAS MESFIN, INKU SELASSIES, ETC. HAVE HAD OCCASION LEARN FIRST HAND (ALSO SEE ADDIS 5781) RAS MENGESHA DOES ENJOY DEGREE PERSONAL SUPPORT THROUGHOUT NORTH BUT ITS EXTENT AND USEFULNESS FOR COUNTER PRESSURE ON SHOA AND AFCC REMAINS TO BE DEMONSTRATED. NEGA IS EXCELLENT ORGANIZER AND WELL CONNECTED IN IMPERIAL FAMILY BUT HE HAS MUCH TO LOSE IN TAKING ON MILITARY/AFCC AND WE UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE MOVE AFOOT RETURN HIM TO COMMAND HIS (THIRD) DIVISION.

4. IT REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT AFCC IS CROWDING EMPEROR; THAT STORIES OF HIS PLIGHT ARE POTENTIALLY INFLAMMATORY; AND THAT IEG/AFCC APPARENTLY SUFFICIENTLY CONCERNED TO MAKE EFFORTS CALM POPULACE. OUR TENTATIVE IMPRESSION IS THAT STORIES CITED BEING SPREAD BY CONSERVATIVES WHO INCREASINGLY CONCERNED BY PACE AND TREND OF EVENTS.
WYMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MILITARY GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS08632
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740200-0992
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740723/aaaaatoa.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) ADDIS 8351, PARA 2; (B) ADDIS ME, MCON DTD 7/22/74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDIS AUTHORITIES SEEK TO CALM WESTERN AND NORTHERN PROVINCES
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET, AFCC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005